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—UPI Telephoto

Mrs. Alice Lenshina surrendered to government forces, a report from Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, said, but no reprisals have been ordered against her followers. The report said Mrs. Lenshina had made a tape recording asking her followers to halt resistance.

Rocky Rhodes: an Roads

Politics Brews Alice's Witchcraft

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There is more than distorted religious faith behind the fanatic Lumpa cult killings in Northern Rhodesia.

Part of the answer is politics. The Lumpa leader, Mrs. Alice Lenshina, became unhappy when some of her followers stopped attending church and started attending meetings of the United National Independence Party or the African National Congress Party.

That was last December, when elections were at hand. There were killings then, too, tho not as many as in the past two weeks.

RED CHINESE

Now Premier Kenneth Kaunda has hinted that "outside influences" may have tried to take advantage of the current blood-letting. Western observers say the "outside influences" may be communist Chinese. They doubt the Reds have made any serious inroads.

Alice, now 41, founded the cult 11 years ago. Its dogma is based on resistance to the change brought to the tribes by Northern Rhodesia's move away from colonial status toward independence.

In short, Alice and the Lumpas and their defiance of modern authority are a roadblock to Northern Rhodesia's progress.

Alice told kin and friends in the Chinsali region of northeast Northern Rhodesia she died and went to heaven where she talked with "a big black god."

He told her to found a church,

back to life so she could do so. Alice called the church Lumpa. It means "above all others."

She preached no smoking, no drinking, no dancing on Sunday, no more than one wife, and no politics. This, she said, meant Lumpas would go to heaven.

WITCHCRAFT

Into all this Alice mixed black witchcraft and white missionary teachings.

To prove herself to her flock, she told them one day to undress during a rain and they would be washed clean of sin. Any whose souls were launder-proof would be struck dead, Alice prophesied.

Lumpas to this day insist

lightning killed two on the spot. This sold Alice practically overnight and her following grew by thousands.

From time to time Lumpas clashed with the government, but they did not slow the march toward independence from Britain. As last December's election neared, Alice thought too many Lumpas were sinning by taking part in politics. She went off alone into the mountains.

Three days later she returned contending she had talked again with God. She even recorded His voice on tape, she said. She turned on her recorder and a booming male voice blared, denouncing polygamy and politics.

"You have heard the voice of God," Alice screamed.